

THE INDYPENDENT

Issue #39, October 21 – November, 2004 • a free paper for free people



Frank Reynolds

Still Swinging in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA—A few miles southeast of the wooded ridges of Valley Forge, where George Washington's army spent the bitter winter of 1777-78, lies the King of Prussia Mall, the largest shopping complex in the world. The Philadelphia suburbs that surround its halls of Eddie Bauer, Foot Locker, and smooth-jazz Muzak are among the places that may decide the 2004 presidential election.

BY STEVEN WISHNIA

Pennsylvania voted for Reagan and Bush I in the '80s, but went for Clinton in the '90s. Al Gore won it by 220,000 votes in 2000, a margin of 50-46 percent. The conventional wisdom is that the state consists of "Philadelphia and Pittsburgh surrounded by Kentucky"; two big cities balanced by isolated, mountainous rural counties.

Democrats, says state party director Don Morabito, rely on a "four corners strategy": Philadelphia, which Gore carried by better than 4-1 in 2000, along with Pittsburgh, Erie, and the old coal-and-steel areas of Allentown/Bethlehem and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, which Gore won narrowly in 2000. Meanwhile, Republicans try to maximize turnout in the rural areas and the Pennsylvania Dutch country around York and Lancaster, the most solidly Republican part of the Northeast, where Bush won by a 2-1 margin in 2000.

The key to the state may be in the Philadelphia suburbs: Bucks, Delaware, Chester and Montgomery counties. They cast one million votes in 2000, a fifth of the state's total, and gave Gore a 53,000-vote margin.

"I'm still swinging," says Mark Wensel, 45, a salesman from Media at the King of Prussia Mall. He's a registered Republican who turned against the Iraq war when no weapons of mass destruction were found, but dislikes Kerry, saying he "tells people what they want to hear." His ultimate choice may be personal, "who would you rather have a beer with?"

Another undecided voter, Barbara Nichter, 56, of Drexel Hill, repeatedly describes the campaign as "frustrating." You don't know what is true and what is not true." She voted for Bush in 2000 and is leaning towards him. Though she works in health care and likes Kerry's position, she feels that Bush is "a better commander-in-chief. We need to be aggressive."

Nancy Perkins, 44, of King of Prussia, is also frustrated with the "accusations and innuendoes." She's divided between supporting Bush on "the terrorism situation" and disagreeing with him on social issues; she's for abortion rights and says "if two people love each other, why shouldn't they be able to get married?" She gently remonstrates with her 17-year-old daughter, who calls Bush "a moron."

"I can't understand these undecideds. Make a frickin' decision!" exclaims Denise Watkins,



Antrim Caskey

Barbara Nichter mulling the choices.

44, of Philadelphia. She endorsed Kerry months ago, she says, because Bush is using faith-based initiatives "to get out of helping inner cities," because "I will never vote for a pro-life politician," and because in Iraq, "if you're making the wrong damn decision, how is it admirable to stick with it?"

"Just not Bush," says Ken Moore, 23, of Havertown, who says in the debates, Bush "seemed to have no clue." "Not Bush. The other one," echoes Helen Smith, 80, of Conshohocken, who says she has to spend more than \$200 a month on medicine.

Two firm Bush supporters are Ryan and Jessica Swales, a pharmaceutical-salesperson couple from the rural town of Williamsport. Bush "takes a strong stance on what he

continued on p. 6

Getting Out The Vote, Or Not

"I ain't voting. I ain't registered. Been too busy being unemployed," says a man with faded skin and broken teeth, wearing a red Rocawear sweatsuit.

He is proving the point expressed by ACORN team leader Kia James a few minutes earlier and a few blocks away, when she says, "A lot of people are so disenfranchised they don't realize their vote counts. They don't see how anything will change their lives."

While officially nonpartisan, the community group is actively registering voters in Philadelphia's poorer neighborhoods, on the grounds that getting people involved in the political process will increase their chances of improving their housing and schools. "You get one neighborhood with 100 percent turnout and one with 20 percent turnout, which one's getting the funds?" James asks.

With far fewer undecided voters than usual, says Don Morabito, the Democrats' state party director, the election is "going to be about turning out the vote." The party has 20,000 volunteers, making more than 100,000 phone calls a week, he adds. He's been involved in politics since 1960, and says, "I've never experienced this level of activity in a campaign." —SW



NEW YORK CITY INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

Phone:

212.684.8112

Email:

imc-nyc-print@indymedia.org

Web:

NYC: www.nyc.indymedia.org
GLOBAL: www.indymedia.org

Office and Mail:

NYC Independent Media Center
34 E. 29th St. 2nd Floor
NY, NY 10016

WHAT IS INDYMEDIA?

With autonomous chapters in more than 100 cities throughout the world, the Independent Media Center is an international network of volunteer media activists.

The IMC seeks to create a new media ethic by providing progressive, in-depth and accurate coverage of issues. We are a community-based organization using media to facilitate political and cultural self-representation. We seek to analyze issues affecting individuals, communities and ecosystems by providing media tools and space to those seeking to communicate. We espouse open dialogue and placing the means of communication and creativity back in the hands of the people, away from the drive of profit.

The Independent is funded by benefits, subscriptions, donations, grants and ads from organizations and individuals with similar missions.

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET INVOLVED?

The IMC has an open door. You can write for *The Independent*, film events and rallies, self-publish articles to the web, take photos or just help us run the office. As an organization relying entirely on volunteer support, we encourage all forms of participation.

The print team reserves the right to edit articles for length, content and clarity. We welcome your participation in the entire editorial process.

VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Chris Anderson, Silvia Arana, Bennett Baumer, Jed Brandt, Kazembe Bulagooon, Mike Burke, Leigh Ann Caldwell, Antrim Caskey, Ellen Davidson, Christopher Day, Shea Dean, Ryan Dunsuir, Ari Edelkind, Miguel Erb, Mike Fluggenook, Chiam Garcia, Alfredo Garzon, Neela Ghoshal, Lauren Giambrone, David Gochfeld, Maggie Gram, A.K. Gupta, Andy Harris, Amelia H. Krales, Renee Leonowicz, Adam Louie, F. Timothy Martin, Edgar Mata, Yoni Mishaal, Nik Moore, Lauren Ng, Lydia Neri, Ana Nogueira, Jennifer Nordstrom, Donald Paneth, Kate Perkins, James Powell, Shawn Redden, Frank Reynoso, Erica Sackin, Ann Schneider, Sheba Sethi, Tim Sparkman, Catriona Stuart, Sarah Stuteville, Suzy Subways, John Tarleton, Liz Tillotson, Leanne Tory-Murphy, Rhianna Tyson, Michael Ulrich, Matthew Wasserman, Steven Wishnia, Amy Wolf



MAGGIE SUSSMAN

U.S. Seizes IMC Servers

On Oct. 7, an unknown U.S. government agency seized two United Kingdom-based Internet servers hosting more than 20 local Independent Media Center (IMC) websites. On Oct. 13, the web servers were just as mysteriously returned to the IMC and their hosting company, Rackspace Managed Hosting.

BY CHRIS ANDERSON

In the intervening days, it was next to impossible to track down information about who actually took the servers, the reasons for the seizure, or the legal authority under which they were impounded.

The first Indymedia was founded just prior to the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle in 1999. Indymedia is a worldwide network of more than 140 alternative journalism centers focusing on grassroots coverage of underreported progressive issues. Each local IMC has a website that contains an "open-publishing newswire," through which readers may post news reports and stories.

When U.S. government agents seized the Rackspace servers, more than 20 local IMC websites were taken off line.

According to Kevin Bankston, a lawyer with the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), Indymedia and the EFF "are planning legal action to find out what really happened to Indymedia's servers and ensure that Internet media are protected from egregious First Amendment violations like this in the future."

The first step in getting to the bottom of the Indymedia mystery, says Bankston, is to unseal the subpoena that ordered the Indymedia seizure in the first place.

CROSS-BORDER LAW ENFORCEMENT

Little verified information currently exists regarding the seizure of the IMC servers, and conflicting rumors have raced across the Internet in the days since Oct. 7.

Part of the confusion stems from the murky (and possibly illegal) cross-border law enforcement methods used to impound the U.K.-based computer hardware.

Initial speculation swirled around the theory that the Swiss or Italian government requested that the FBI move against the IMC websites and Rackspace. Despite denials by the Swiss Attorney General Daniel Zapelli, some in the media have speculated that the seizure was initially prompted by photographs of Swiss undercover police posted to the Nantes Indymedia website.

Others have discussed the possibility that the seizure was related to the continuing trial of Italian police accused of killing one protester and beating other protesters and journalists at the 2001 G-8 Summit in Genoa.

On Oct. 14, a third theory about the reasons for the server seizure was advanced by Indymedia Italy. "Marina Plazzi, a public prosecutor for Bologna investigating the Informal Anarchist Federation (FAI) and alleged bomb threats delivered to the president of the European Union Commission, Romano Prodi, apparently issued a request for information (RFI) to United States authorities concerning posts published on italy.indymedia.org," noted an Indymedia press release.

The only public statement from Rackspace regarding the seizure was issued on Oct. 8. "Rackspace Managed Hosting, a U.S.-based company with offices in London, is acting in compliance with a court order pursuant to a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which establishes procedures for countries to assist each other in investigations such as international terrorism, kidnapping and money laundering. Rackspace responded to a Commissioner's subpoena, duly issued under Title 28, U.S. Code, Section 1782, in an investigation that did not arise in the United States."

Dai Davis, an IT lawyer at London law firm Nabarro Nathanson, argued that "Rackspace's statement fails to clarify the legal basis of the raid."

Tony Bunyan, the editor of *Statewatch News*, speculated: "The trail seems to be that Swiss and Italian authorities sought the help of U.S. authorities to shut down offending Indymedia sites. Rackspace then 'responded' to a U.S. subpoena — this response was to take off the air and hand Indymedia's servers to the FBI or their representative."

On Oct. 14, FBI spokeswoman Megan Baroska told the Associated Press that the agency would not comment on the seizure or the returned hard drives because its investigation was ongoing.

In an Oct. 18 interview with *Democracy Now*, Devon Theriot-Orr, a member of the Seattle IMC, noted that "without seeing a copy of the subpoena served to Rackspace, it's hard to have any idea what's really going on."

U.S. MEDIA BLACKOUT

Despite the legal, political and civil liberties questions surrounding the server seizure, the mainstream American press has paid little attention to the Indymedia affair.

While numerous stories about the web shutdown have surfaced in Italian and

German newspapers, as well as on the BBC and in the U.K. *Guardian*, "coverage of this ominous event has thus far drawn almost total silence from the U.S. news media," writes John Hanrahan, a media analyst and contributor to the Harvard University-based *Neiman Watchdog*.

Significantly, no coverage of the IMC shutdown has appeared in the pages of either the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times*. "You would think that the major U.S. news media would have at least a passing interest in press freedom," Hanrahan continues. "The Indymedia shutdown stinks to high heaven and contains more than a whiff of totalitarianism, but perhaps even worse is the silence of the major U.S. news media."

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Despite the media blackout in the United States, dozens of civil liberties and press freedom groups have rallied to the Indymedia cause. In one of the strongest public statements to date, Aidan White, general secretary of the International Federation of Journalists, called the server seizure "an intolerable and intrusive international police operation against a network specializing in independent journalism... [that] smacks more of intimidation of legitimate journalistic inquiry than crime-busting."

David Dudge, editor of the International Press Institute, echoes White's remarks. "IPI is deeply worried that the seizure of the web servers in the United Kingdom sets an unwelcome precedent for distinguishing between traditional news media and Internet news sites," Dudge noted. "It is highly unlikely that the authorities would have acted in such a heavy-handed way if the media in question were a Western newspaper or broadcaster." And on Oct. 11 Reporters Without Borders condemned the seizure of the U.K.-based web servers, writing to Home Secretary David Blunkett (copied to his U.S., Italian and Swiss counterparts) seeking an explanation for the confiscations.

MORE TROUBLE AHEAD?

This is not the first run-in Indymedia has had with global law enforcement agencies. In recent weeks, however, state harassment of Indymedia has accelerated. In August, the Secret Service used the subpoena power of the U.S. government in an attempt to disrupt the NYC IMC before the Republican National Convention. Two weeks ago, the FBI paid an "unofficial visit" to an Indymedia volunteer in Seattle requesting that Indymedia take down the aforementioned post on the IMC Nantes website.

Perhaps even more ominously, the use of a gag order to muzzle discussion about the Rackspace seizure may very well indicate that other IMCs have been contacted by law enforcement, yet are unable to publicly discuss the details of their harassment due to legal restrictions.



Evergreen Campaigns

An 'Ox for the People'

Sound familiar? Chou asks what is by now a popular question: Should people unite behind one candidate to guarantee a win, or should they vote for the best candidate? Despite his poor showing in 2002, he has emerged as a crusader for third-party political access.

This year, he sued the state Board of Elections to allow volunteers who live outside of the district to collect qualifying petition signatures for him. The court ruled in his favor, and Chou and his small band of volunteers got the 700 signatures he needed to get his name on the ballot — an amount significantly more than that required from either the Democrats or Republicans.

This hasn't been his only success. In 2002, when the news channel New York 1 held a candidate forum and didn't invite him, Chou showed up anyway and staged a small protest outside until the police forced him to leave. This year, he convinced the Chinese-language media to sponsor a debate among the candidates vying for the Flushing Assembly seat.

He says that he has gotten fair coverage from that sector. "How does one cultivate evergreenness," he asks. "The Chinese would say through tai-chi. WBAI talk-show host Gary Null would say through health. I'm trying to make my life better and my neighbors' lives better through legislative office."

—Catriona Stuart

Every Saturday at the corner of Kissena and Main Streets, Evergreen Chou works the bustling Flushing, Queens sidewalk like a skilled politician.

With a bright yellow antiwar sign in Chinese, he waves to familiar bus drivers, shakes hands with passers-by and chats with neighbors about gentrification. This is more than just a running peace vigil; for Chou and the handful of graying volunteers standing around him, it is a major campaign stop.

Chou, a 44-year-old Green Party member and a native of Taiwan has mounted his second longshot bid for Flushing's state Assembly seat. With a long, straggly beard and a black ponytail that reaches halfway down his back, he isn't a typical candidate; he still holds his day job as an ultrasound technician at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn and serves as a union delegate. His supporters call him "an ox for the people," a Chinese saying that connotes a politician who works for the common man.

Chou got only 158 votes, 1 percent of the vote, in the 2002 Assembly election. That race was expected to produce the first Asian-American Assembly member in the district, whose population is 53 percent Asian. Instead, four Chinese candidates, including then-Independent Jimmy Meng, lost to Barry Grodenchik, a Democratic contender. Many of Flushing's Asian residents blame the loss on third parties, because they split the large Chinese vote among several candidates. This year, they are determined to unite behind Meng, a successful businessman, now the Democratic favorite, regardless of the issues.

unbelievable

MTA Mulls Backdoor Subway-Fare Increase

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is warning New Yorkers that it might raise transit fares yet again next year. The agency announced Oct. 14 that it will preserve the base \$2 subway and bus fare (for now), but is considering a proposal to raise the cost of weekly MetroCards from \$21 to \$24 and monthly cards from \$70 to as much as \$84. The outer boroughs are facing a possible \$2 increase for express buses, and Long Island Railroad and Metro North fares may also rise. But there's more: according to the *Daily News*, the MTA plans to close 164 more token booths.

The MTA insists it has a \$1 billion deficit — but in 2002, when it raised the basic fare 50 cents, transit-advocacy groups revealed that the agency actually had a surplus and was using two sets of accounting books to cover the discrepancy. A city judge issued an injunction against the fare hike, but it was overturned by a state appeals court, and the increase went through.

The proposal comes after service cuts in 2003, when elevator operators were laid off and transit workers' wages frozen. Governor George Pataki, who along with Mayor Mike Bloomberg appoints the MTA board, has refused to increase state funding for the buses or trains. More than 2,100 transit positions are targeted for elimination.

—Kazembe Bulagoon



FIERCE MARCHES down Christopher Street, part of the Save our Space campaign.

Young Queers Won't Clear the Piers

FIERCE, a queer, people-of-color organization, took to the streets of Greenwich Village Oct. 16 to protest police harassment of youths at the West Side piers. Dubbed "The Rebellion is Not Over," the rally took place at Sheridan Square, the site of the Stonewall rebellion 35 years ago.

Despite the Village's reputation as a haven for lesbians and gays, recent years in the neighborhood have seen a campaign by upscale property owners and police citing "quality of life" violations to stifle the thriving street scene for gay, lesbian and transgendered youth of color, some of whom are homeless.

In response, FIERCE and allied organizations are calling for a queer youth drop-in center, housing, health-care and employment. The protesters also demanded an expansion of public space in the area and an end to the 1:00 a.m. curfew at Hudson River Park, a regulation aimed specifically at the youth who hang out there.

—Kazembe Bulagoon

RNC Costs

The 2004 Republican National Convention cost almost \$154 million dollars to stage, according to a detailed report filed with the Federal Election Commission. Most of the \$58 million spent by the city on police and other services will be reimbursed by the federal government. Expenses included \$301,460 in limousine services, \$207,000 on the balloon drop finale, and \$7,000 on coffee and donuts for host committee staff and police officers. The bulk of the cost has been covered by private donations with the largest single contributor emerging as New York City's own Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, donating \$5 million in cash and \$2 million in legal and accounting fees. Other contributors include Goldman Sachs (\$1.2 million) and Merrill Lynch (\$1.1 million). The mayor stated, "The numbers will basically show that it's good news for the city. We raised all the money privately."

While few New Yorkers would wish to shoulder the monetary burden of the Republican National Convention, many government watchdog groups have argued that, far from being good news, the convention's reliance on private funding is in direct opposition to Congress's intention to keep such events publicly financed. With their official purpose being to promote the city in which a convention is hosted rather than the political party of the convention, Host Committees have emerged as a vehicle for unlimited campaign contributions.

—Megan Walton

Velella Rides Out of Rikers

Disgraced Republican State Senator Guy Velella, whose release from the Rikers Island jail last month by a virtually unknown city panel caused a minor scandal, had a long history of bipartisan support despite his strongly anti-tenant record.

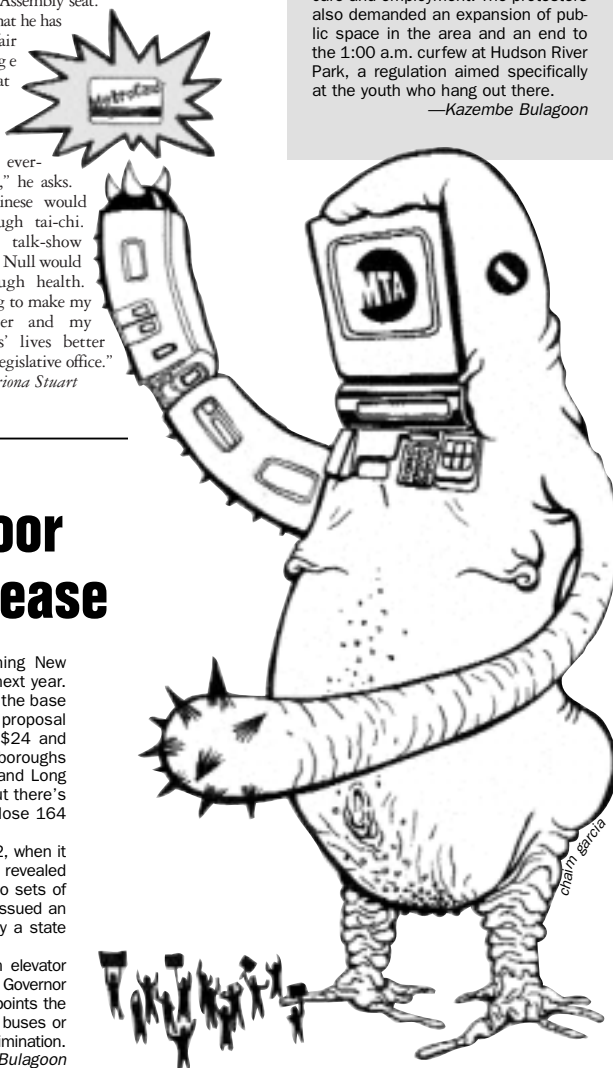
Velella had served just three months of a one-year sentence for taking bribes. He was freed by the Local Conditional Release Commission, which has received more than 7,000 applications for early release from city prisoners so far this year — and granted five, three of them to Velella and two co-defendants.

Velella, who represented the north Bronx and southern Westchester for 18 years until last May when he resigned and pleaded guilty to the bribery charges, was one of the three state senators from New York City who voted against renewing the state's rent regulations in 1997. He was the only one of three to draw significant Democratic opposition in the years after that, but still won the endorsement of Local 1199, the once-progressive healthcare workers' union. The Bronx Democratic machine either endorsed him or gave lukewarm support to his opponents.

One of the reasons the New York State Legislature is considered the most dysfunctional in the country is that it is gerrymandered for gridlock, with districts drawn to preserve the Democrats' majority in the Assembly and the Republicans' hold on the Senate. After Velella drew a strong challenge from Democrat Lorraine Coyle-Koppell in 2000, his district was reconfigured to avoid Black neighborhoods in Mount Vernon and the Bronx and excise the block where Coyle-Koppell lived. Its resulting shape, wrote Kenny Schaeffer of the Metropolitan Council on Housing, looked "like a lobster shaking hands with a very surprised cat."

More than 30 people wrote letters to the release commission urging it to free Velella, including former mayor Ed Koch, state Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Edward Cardinal Egan, and various Bronx politicians. He got a ride out of Rikers from the head of the guards' union.

—Steven Wishnia



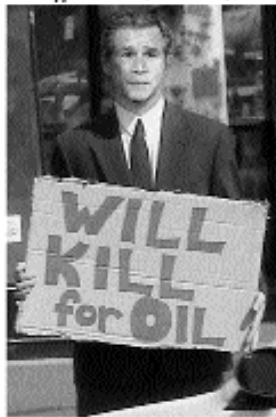
RADICAL WALKING TOURS

Bruce Kayton leads 17 different radical history walking tours of Manhattan focusing on subjects like bohemian Greenwich Village, the antiwar movement, Malcolm X, John Reed, Emma Goldman & more!

(718) 492.0069

www.RadicalWalkingTours.org

Available at
WWW.CONTEMPL8.NET
17 different T-Shirts & Stickers



CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS
Designed to Disturb the Status Quo!



radical bookstore | activist center | fair trade cafe
172 Allen St. • 212.777.6028 •

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH @ 7PM
\$3 to \$5 Suggested

Women's Poetry Jam
& Women's Open-Mike

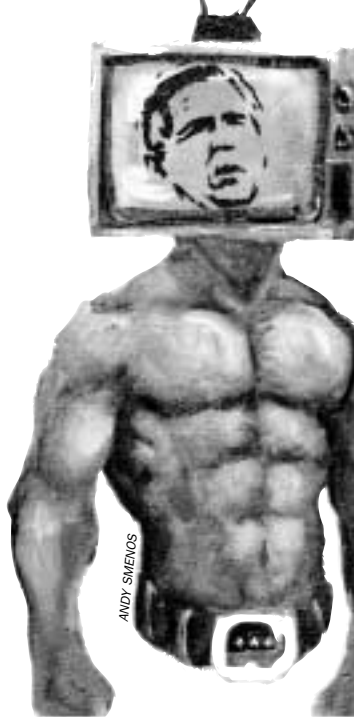
Featuring: Flavia Alaya and Laura Boss.

Flavia Alaya's work isn't for the complacent, world-weary or the politically timid. She is best known for a memoir that tattled the rich tale of her half-life as the moll of an activist street priest, and her latest work-in-progress is the stories of real artists, labor radicals and anarchists in industrial Paterson, New Jersey during the turn of a past century. Laura Boss will be reading new poems concerning love, loss and the struggle to survive, as well as from her books "Arms: New and Selected Poems" and "Reports from the Front".

Women's Poetry Jam is hosted by Vittoria Repetto, the hardest working guinea butch dyke poet on the lower east side. Open mike sign-up starts at 7 pm, so come and deliver (up to) 8 minutes of your poetry, prose,

commentary

Sinclair Dishonors Itself



BY A.K. GUPTA

In all the controversy over the decision by the Sinclair Broadcast Group to order its 62 television affiliates to air *Stolen Honor* commercial-free just two weeks before the presidential election, little has been said about the film itself.

The film is by its own admission an attack on Kerry—the website labels it “A documentary exposing John Kerry’s record of betrayal.” One can ascertain in the documentary a year-zero mentality, casting the former Navy lieutenant as the linchpin of history. Kerry is blamed for “creating the image” of the “evil American soldier.”

Because of Kerry, “Nearly every book or motion picture” produced after 1971 about Vietnam “echoes” his “litany of atrocities.” Kerry is also alleged to have met “with a top enemy diplomat” in an “undisclosed location in Paris,” while joining “forces with Jane Fonda’s anti-war efforts,” shoehorning in the hated French with the traitor charge and a culture war dig. If anyone missed the point, the audience is told, “Enemy propagandists had found a new and willing accomplice” in Kerry.

One former POW claims that prisoners died because of Kerry’s activities, while the wife of a former POW states that “because of Kerry’s testimony” veterans who came back were “spat upon.” (A myth dismantled by historian and Vietnam veteran Jerry Lembcke in his 1998 book, *Spitting Image*.)

We are also told that Kerry “seized upon” testimony of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) “to help him organize the so-called Winter Soldiers Investigation” in January 1971. Many of the Winter Soldiers, states *Stolen Honor*, were “frauds” and their testimony, “lurid fantasies of butchery.”

Filmmaker and Republican Party operative Carlton Sherwood has repeated this falsehood in recent interviews. At the time of the Winter Soldier Investigation, Nixon’s White House counsel Charles Colson warned that the men would “be checked out to ascertain if they are genuine Viet Nam combat veterans.”

Earlier this year, the Chicago Tribune reported that Kerry and VVAW “were very careful to double-check” the accuracy of the accounts, and the Nixon administration ulti-

Intended or not, Lt. Kerry painted a depraved portrait of Vietnam veterans, literally creating the image of those who served in combat as deranged, drug-addicted psychopaths. Baby-killers. That odious image has endured in the present popular culture for more than 30 years. Nearly every book or motion picture produced about Vietnam since 1971 echoes the litany of atrocities John Kerry laid at the feet of the men who served there... It was his evil American soldier on a bloody rampage that filled the screens and lined the pockets of producers of films like *Apocalypse Now*, *Platoon* and *Casualties of War*.

From the documentary, *Stolen Honor: Wounds that Never Heal*. www.stolenhonor.com

mately “offered no public challenge” of the veterans. The website mediamatters.org adds that VVAW member Kenneth J. Campbell told MSNBC Sept. 9 that all the testifying veterans brought military discharge papers proving their service in case their credibility was questioned.

As for the Winter Soldier testimony by more than 100 veterans (note: the website wintersoldier.com was set up to discredit Kerry and the Winter Soldiers), each one provides specific details on their units, and when and where they served in Vietnam. The veterans explain witnessing or participating in virtually every form of war crime under the guise of military policies like “harassment and interdiction” and “free-fire zones.” The casual brutality, indifference to slaughter and the criminal nature of the entire war is undeniable from reading the accounts.

Every right-wing myth and cliché about Vietnam is crammed into *Stolen Honor*, down to the inevitable “We were fighting that war with one arm tied behind us.”

Ultimately, *Stolen Honor* is not just about the past. The film is a 42-minute attack on the anti-war movement in general, blaming it for prolonging both the war and the imprisonment of U.S. POWs. Anti-war activists are repeatedly referred to as traitors, disloyal and unpatriotic. *Stolen Honor* is premised on the “stab-in-the-back” thesis hauled out by defenders of every failed war through history.

Because Sinclair is also a knee-jerk defender of the current imperial adventure, it’s not hard to imagine similar charges being hurled at peace activists down the road after the inevitable U.S. defeat in Iraq.

WHO IS THE SINCLAIR GROUP?

The role that Sinclair Broadcast Group plays in national politics goes beyond partisan attack dog. It has poured more than \$170,000 into the Republican Party over the last decade. The Sinclair Watch project notes that after Sept. 11, the broadcaster ordered stations to “express allegiance to the Bush administration on the air.”

Sinclair is trying to spin golden success out of the dross of failure in Iraq. Sinclair first appeared on the public radar screen in April when it ordered its ABC affiliates not to air an episode of *Nightline* in which host Ted Koppel read the names of 721 U.S. troops who had died up to that point in Iraq.

Sinclair called the broadcast a political statement “disguised as news content,” a charge more applicable to its decision to slap a news label on *Stolen Honor*. Even Sinclair’s Washington bureau chief, Jon Lieberman publicly criticized the decision to spin the hatchet job as news, saying, “They’re using the news to drive their political agenda.” (a comment that cost Lieberman his job).

In February, Sinclair announced that it was going to focus on the “positive” news coming out of Iraq. Vice president and commentator Mark Hyman told *The Baltimore Sun* that Sinclair stations were airing reports that presented the “positive,” untold stories that the “liberal media” don’t recount.” Hyman, who spoke to the paper from Baghdad, also found Iraqis “brimming with good cheer toward Americans.” Hyman’s unbridled enthusiasm for the occupation came just weeks before the simmering guerrilla war expanded into open revolt last April.

Hyman has gained notoriety for “The Point,”

a pre-recorded commentary Sinclair stations must play as part of their local news. (Sinclair uses canned techniques and a “News Central” division and has fired entire news staffs at local affiliates—all moves reminiscent of radio giant Clear Channel’s operating methods.)

In an 11-day period in September alone, nine of Hyman’s commentaries were unbridled attacks on Kerry with such titles as “Kerry and The Oath,” “Kerry and The Medals,” “Kerry and The Communists,” with the later claiming that “Kerry has a lifetime of experience in... supporting Communist forces opposed to the U.S.”

Critics note that because Sinclair profits from using the public airwaves, it is bound to serve the public interest. But the Federal Communications Commission has declined to take any action against Sinclair either for abusing ownership laws in amassing more than 60 stations or for its broadcast of *Stolen Honor*.

One commissioner, Michael J. Copps, has called on the FCC to take action, stating, “This is an abuse of the public trust. And it is proof positive of media consolidation run amok when one owner can use the public airwaves to blanket the country with its political ideology.”

But Sinclair’s extreme agenda is hurting the company where it counts. Its stock has dropped nearly 60 percent since January, a boycott of advertisers on Sinclair stations has been initiated, one veteran who appears in the film has filed a libel suit, and, according to the Associated Press, a shareholder lawsuit is being planned “alleging insider trading by top executives as well as damage from the decision to air the film.”

For more information, go to sinclairwatch.org

Swing State Radio CLEAR CHANNEL

The Sinclair Broadcast Group has drawn scrutiny with its plan to air a documentary denouncing John Kerry. But as the presidential campaign races to a close, it’s worth remembering that Clear Channel, the Texas-based communications behemoth that owns over 1,200 radio stations nationwide, has also showed its right-wing leanings in recent years.

In March 2003, Clear Channel banished the Dixie Chicks from its airwaves after lead singer Natalie Maines criticized President George W. Bush days before the beginning of the Iraq war. The chain’s stations sponsored prowar rallies in a number of cities around the country that spring. Here in New York, Clear Channel tried to block an antiwar advertisement from appearing on a billboard it owns in Times Square during last August’s Republican National Convention.

Clear Channel vice-chairman Tom Hicks is also a longtime ally of Bush. He purchased Bush’s share in the Texas Rangers baseball team in 1999 for \$14.9 million. As governor of Texas, Bush privatized the University of Texas’ \$9 billion endowment fund and appointed Hicks as chairman of UTIMCO, the nonprofit corporation that manages investments for the endowment. From his position, Hicks was able to tap into the endowment fund to help bankroll Clear Channel’s spectacular growth. Now he and Clear Channel are in a position to help an old friend one more time. —John Tarleton

How Conservatives Are Fighting to Win The Campus Wars

The campus left increasingly finds itself facing off against seasoned conservative strategists. While progressive student groups are mostly self-funded, by the mid-1990s roughly \$20 million a year was being pumped into the campus right, according to People for the American Way.

BY JOSHUA HOLLAND

This money and expertise is directed at four distinct goals: training conservative campus activists, supporting right-wing student publications, indoctrinating the next generation of culture warriors and demonstrating the liberal academic "bias" that justifies many conservatives' reflexive anti-intellectualism.

One such project is the Leadership Institute, which trains, supports and coordinates public relations for 213 conservative student groups nationwide. The Leadership Institute is one-stop shopping for the campus right — they'll provide conservative guest speakers, assistance in starting a conservative newspaper and training on how to win campus elections.

Young America's Foundation (YAF), like the Heritage Foundation, was started in the 1970s with seed money from Richard Mellon Scaife. According to *Insight* magazine, it "organizes so many programs on so many campuses that it's difficult to find a [young] conservative activist" who hasn't been associated with its activities.

The programs include the National Conservative Student Conference, where this year's speakers included ABC's John Stossel, Alabama's Judge Roy Moore and Reagan administration veterans Edwin Meese and Jeane Kirkpatrick.

Such organizations, along with others like the National Association of Scholars and Students for Academic Freedom, serve as ready sources of materials, skills and support for young conservative activists. What it adds up to is that while progressive students organize around specific issues like sweatshop labor or affirmative action, conservatives have launched a coordinated, nationwide movement with a single goal: defeating campus liberalism itself.

THE MEDIA AND THE MESSAGE

One of the bulwarks of that movement has been the creation of a right-wing college media. The effort has been led by YAF's National Journalism Center, which "trains scores of students every year in the skills of press work, and assigns them internships [with] cooperating media locations" like the *Washington Times*.

The Intercollegiate Studies Institute, founded by William F. Buckley, funnels cash to more than 80 right-wing student publications through its Collegiate Network (CN). A report by People for the American Way quotes the editor-in-chief of the conservative *Stanford Review* as saying CN staffers "help us form our opinions."

Today, nearly every major college in the nation has an active right-wing student newspaper. The same cannot be said for the left.

THE BACKLASH COMES TO CAMPUS

To truly understand today's campus conservatives, you have to look past the organizing to the ideology, which reflects the shift from traditional conservatism to the "backlash" poli-

tics of the past few decades. Much of the current focus is on angry, non-debatable cultural conservatism. That's why YAF has a "conservative speakers bureau" that sends all kinds of pissed-off culture warriors to campus, including black conservatives to argue that liberals are "soft racists" and conservative "feminists" to rail against the "misogynistic" liberalism of "The Vagina Monologues."

Campus conservatives focus on departments like sociology or ethnic and women's studies, considered bastions of progressive thought. They use liberal professors' statements taken out of context to weave a circumstantial case of bias. The goal is not to promote diversity of opinion, but to convince people that our nation's universities have been hijacked by, as the title of one book puts it, "tenured radicals" who brainwash our youth with their crypto-socialist ideology.

In fact, liberal bias in the academy is a fiction based on the same sort of selective analysis used to "prove" bias in the media. While there are certainly plenty of liberal professors, rarely mentioned by campus right-wingers are traditionally conservative departments like economics, right-leaning frats and student groups, the influence of campus ROTC or the fact that for every left-leaning Vassar or Oberlin there is an equally conservative Washington and Lee or Brigham Young University.

But many students buy into the myth. For a generation raised on the reactionary polemics of Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter, more intellectual brands of conservatism — those based on Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman — are often unrecognizable; they appear solidly centrist to today's backlash youth. Once you're convinced that the university is a virtual liberal re-education camp, then every slight and inconvenience of campus life becomes further proof of the malevolence of the left.

In that spirit, whenever a liberal professor clashes with a conservative student or an arbitrary rule causes a conservative some inconvenience, the offense is tracked assiduously by professional watchdogs like David Horowitz's Center for the Study of Popular Culture or Daniel Pipes' Campus Watch. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a group founded by Lynne Cheney, issued a report about unpatriotic professors following September 11. Another group, Accuracy in Academia, made waves in the 1980s when they offered the McCarthyite claim that their "research" showed there to be 10,000 known Communists among university faculties.

REBELS WITH A CAUSE

Savvy organizers have seized on all that righteous anger and created an appealing image for today's young conservative: rebellious and countercultural, courageously fighting the power. They've also co-opted the mocking, confrontational tone of bygone campus radicals in their tactics. So we see



Nik Moore and Liz Tillotson

IN BRIEF

PROTESTORS NOT SUBJECT TO SEARCH AT SCHOOL OF AMERICAS PROTEST AT FT. BENNING

A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that protesters at an upcoming rally against a U.S. training academy for Latin American soldiers, an annual protest since 1990, may not be required to pass through metal detectors. The unanimous ruling by the conservative-leaning 11th Circuit Court to uphold constitutional rights, which have been increasingly threatened since September 11 and the War on Terror. The ruling could prove instrumental if used to challenge broader aspects of the PATRIOT Act. This year's protest is scheduled for Nov. 21-22.

GULF WAR VETERANS AFFECTED BY NEUROTOXINS

A panel of medical experts has found that veterans of the 1991 Gulf War have been affected by exposure to toxic chemicals. In a draft version of the report released to the *New York Times*, the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses contends that "a substantial proportion of Gulf War veterans are ill with multi-symptom conditions not explained by wartime stress or psychiatric illness." The committee concludes that there is a "probable link" between the health complaints of veterans and exposure to neurotoxins. Possible sources for these neurotoxins include pesticides used to protect American soldiers in the area and pyridostigmine bromide, given to troops to protect them against nerve gas.

Previous findings have rejected the notion that veterans' health complaints could be linked to physical conditions in Iraq. In light of these new findings, the committee recommended allocating \$60 million in government funds to research possible medical treatments for these soldiers and a reassessment of various military procedures, especially the administration of pyridostigmine bromide.

WORLD WAR 3 REPORT

Vigilant, Independent Sentry
of Truth in the War on Terrorism
Bill Weinberg, Editor

www.ww3report.com

Pet Your Bunny

TOYS
in Babeland
See You, Not a Pussycat When

New York: 94 Ill. Wagon St. 212-676-1731
New York: 43 W. 4th St. 212-366-2170
Seattle: 207 E. Pike St. 206-329-2014

www.babeland.com 1-800-658-9119

PENNSYLVANIA SWING

cont. from cover

thinks,” explains Ryan, 28, while Kerry “is a chameleon.” Even if there was no link between Saddam Hussein and the 9/11 attacks, adds Jessica, 25, “you can’t say Iraq is not better off without Saddam. His sons killed people for no reason.” The two believe that “the media need to cover the good things more, not just the negative,” says Ryan. “That’s why we started watching Fox News. They give both sides.”

Another Republican, 21-year-old Penn State student Dan Iannucci, says he will vote for Kerry. The huge budget deficit is not “real Republican economics,” he explains, and Bush went into Iraq “without a plan to win the peace. If it was you or me and you planned that poorly for something that important, you’d be fired.”

Cleophis Hyman, 67, a retired truckdriver from Philadelphia, is a black man who complains that Bush “can spend billions in Iraq, but they can’t put medicine on Medicare” — but he will nevertheless probably vote for Bush. The reason: Kerry “believes people have the right to kill your children,” he opines. “They use fancy words. They call it ‘abortion.’ They call it ‘choice.’ But it’s murder.”



VINCENZO GENTILE wants to see “a pervy queer president

WEST PHILLY LEANS LEFT

The spectrum of views is very different at Baltimore Avenue and South 49th Street in West Philadelphia. The neighborhood, composed of richly detailed, aging three-story wood and brick houses, is mostly African-American, but more multiracial and somewhat better off than the blocks to the north, which are pockmarked with abandoned rowhouses. It’s also home to Philadelphia’s anarchist space and the site of the defunct Radio Mutiny pirate station.

“We don’t want no Bush. I know that much,” says Tee Johnson, 69.

“Bush is a downright liar,” says Sarah Crocker, 40, a workers’ compensation claims adjuster. “The economy’s a mess, the senior citizens are catching hell with the prescription drugs. And the one who did 9/11 is bin Laden. Why are you going after Saddam Hussein?” Bush says the health-care system is getting better, she adds, but when she tried to get medical care — “for me, my kids have CHIP” — after her unemployment compensation

ran out last year, “They told me the government ran out of money. I said, ‘You’re taking my tax dollars to Iraq and I can’t get health care here in the United States? That’s ridiculous.’”

Her main hope, she says, is that “it doesn’t happen like in Florida. They stole the election. I don’t care what anybody says.”

James Seldon, a 45-year-old father of three, says he was “kind of undecided” until the last debate, when “Bush would put the same answer to everything. ‘Education is great.’ School is great for kids, but people my age need jobs. We’ve got bills. And he wants kids to pay for their own Social Security.”

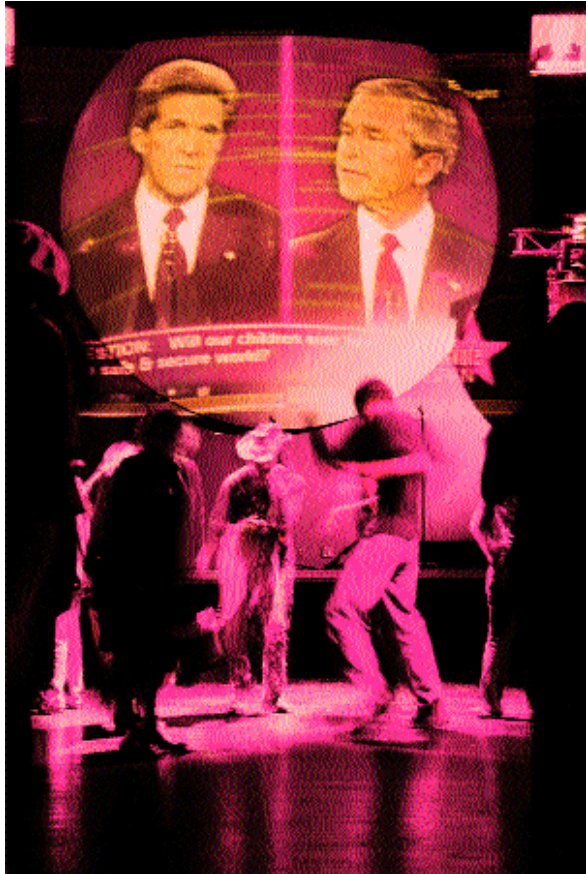
Marissa Valenzuela, 26, a social worker with several rings in her lower lip, says she’ll vote for Kerry as “damage control.” A lot of her friends aren’t voting, she says after Florida, “who knows if it gets counted?” Her friend Vincenzo Gentile, 21, a social-ist bicycle messenger, would like to see “an extremely pervy queer president,” but will vote for Kerry as “less scary than Bush.” He was impressed that Kerry brought up abortion rights in the debates without being asked.

“I don’t know anyone who’s not voting,” he adds. “I’ve been to parties where people won’t

let you in the door unless you’re registered.” Joe, a 51-year-old salesman, says he’s voting for Ralph Nader, based on his opposition to the Iraq war and his work on environmental issues. Asked the obvious question, he replies, “I’d rather have Bush. Kerry’s a quiche-eating, insipid phony. He’s for the war, then against it.”

Kerry has “taken the inner-city vote for granted,” says Jim Kurtz, a 48-year-old nurse with two young children. He’d like to see the issue of drugs addressed, by a combination of legalization, treatment for addicts, and creating jobs to discourage the young from turning to dealing. “I don’t have a lot of hope that Kerry will do anything about that,” he says, but he’ll vote for the Democrat anyway.

“I’m biased. Whatever Bush says is bull,” says Bilal Bell, 29, sitting in front of his bakery shop, with his baby daughter. “I hope people will see through all the propaganda and the bad commercials.”



BY NICHOLAS POWERS

Why did they agree to a timer that resembled the terror alert system? As Senator Kerry and President Bush recycled slogans and dodged questions, the timer clicked from green to yellow to red. Flashing red meant stop. Was I alone in wanting to see one keep gabbing while the red light flashed. Would orchestra music drown them out as in the Oscars? Would the moderator declare martial law?

Time is power. Anyone who has gone to therapy knows how the last few minutes are often the most intense, as if to shoehorn in the truth avoided throughout the session. Observers who study this suggest

patients fear the end of speaking, as if it’s a minor death and the time pressure pushes through the defenses of the ego. So I watched Bush and Kerry, listening for the panic that signals honesty. I didn’t hear it.

Both men speak in bite-size clichés, designed like nails to be hammered into their opponent’s image. Think flip-flop and liar. Since both had ready replies, we the audience simply watched two men repeat accusations from the safe distance that exists between routine speech and real feeling. Having a time limit is power because it protects them from letting a series of questions pry them out of their safety zone. How do we get their truth?

One of the innovations of Lacanian psychoanalysis is to have no time limit. If Bush and Kerry did not know

when the debate ended, if faced with no outside controlling force but their own need to speak, would we hear what they need to say? If they ran out of slogans and sound bites and were faced with empty time waiting to be filled, if they had to create new thought — would we finally hear the world they want to create?

Heading into the final days of the campaign, I remember the debate timer and how it protected them when they had nothing to say. I remember how it resembled the terror alert system. Whoever wins, if he runs out of slogans — will we see it flashing red?

PHOTOS: David Gochfeld, NYC IMC Photo Team



it don’t mean a thing, if it ain’t got swing

ohio

Florida 2000 All Over Again?

BY JOSHUA BREITBART

TOLEDO, Ohio — Sound familiar: a swing state, some improper ballots and a notably partisan Republican Secretary of State issuing directives designed to minimize voter participation? This Florida 2000 scenario is looking increasingly likely to play out here in Ohio.

This election’s Katherine Harris is Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, an African American and a big Bush booster. He’s issued so many cockamamie directives he’s lost credibility among local election boards, who are now selectively choosing which ones to follow.

It’s gotten so bad that state legislators are calling for Blackwell’s resignation. The NAACP is trying to pressure him to allow parolees to vote after many were improperly informed that they could not. Blackwell has also announced that only voter registration forms printed on heavy 80-lb. paper stock should be accepted, claiming lighter cards might be shredded by postal equipment (meaning that voters who have to re-register on the heavier paper might not make it on time). On Oct. 14 a federal judge overturned another Blackwell edict, ruling that a person can vote in the wrong precinct as long as she or he is in the right county.

Some ballots may wind up being marred. Officials in Lucas County (which encompasses Toledo) can’t agree on how to remove Ralph Nader’s name from the ballots that were printed before a judge booted him off.

There are also concerns as Ohio has begun to introduce electronic voting machines produced by Diebold, whose chief executive officer Walden O’Dell has raised \$100,000 for the president’s re-election effort and pledged last year he was “com-



mitted to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes” to Bush.

Republicans may have good reason to be concerned about Ohio and its 20 electoral votes. No Republican has ever won the White House without winning Ohio. In 2000, Bush won Ohio by 165,000 votes (or 3.5 percent) after Al Gore decided to conserve his resources and not contest the state in the campaign’s final weeks. The state has been hard hit by job losses during Bush’s presidency and this time around activist groups, like the George Soros-funded Americans Coming Together, have registered 700,000 new voters in Ohio, many of them in predominantly Democratic areas.

This story was adapted from an earlier version that appeared on clamormagazine.org.

Voting As A Full-Contact Sport

News reports are piling up regarding Republican secretaries of state, election officials and partisans making a concerted effort to disenfranchise voters in key swing states in advance of November 2. **By John Tarleton**

Florida

Law enforcement officers in Florida, investigating absentee ballot fraud, conducted intimidating visits to elderly African-Americans in Orlando.

In Florida’s Duval County the supervisor of elections refused to add more than the current single early voting site, “miles from most of the majority black precincts.” Adjacent Orange County has nine early-vote sites.

The Republican secretary of state’s office has told officials to reject registration forms that are complete except for a blank U.S. citizen check box even though signing the registration form is akin to signing an oath declaring U.S. citizenship.

Nevada

Hundreds of voter registration forms were intentionally discarded or destroyed by Voters Outreach of America, a private company headed by Nathan Sproul, former chair of the Arizona Republican Party.

Oregon

The state attorney general opened a criminal investigation into allegations that Sproul’s firm was intentionally destroying or discarding voter registration forms signed by Democrats. According to OpenSecrets.org, Sproul’s firm received \$125,000 this year from the Republican National Committee for voter registration and another \$500,000 for “political consulting.” Sproul’s company also ran voter registration drives in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Florida.

Ohio

Burglars broke into Lucas County Democratic Party headquarters and stole three computers. Data on one stolen computer included e-mails discussing campaign strategy, candidates’ schedules, financial information and phone numbers of party members, candidates, donors and volunteers. No arrests have been made to date.

Secretary of State A. Kenneth Blackwell says he will appeal a court ruling that allows voters to cast provisional ballots in the wrong precinct as long as they are cast in the proper county. He also tried to disqualify voter registration forms that were not printed on heavy, 80-lb. stock paper.

Minnesota

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer gave local election officials fliers that warned voters to watch for unattended packages, vehicles “riding low on springs” and “homicide bombers.” Bombers may have a “shaved head or short hair,” “smell of unusual herbal/flower water or perfume,” wear baggy clothes or appear to be whispering to themselves, the flier warns.

Michigan

Republican State Rep. John Pappageorge told the *Detroit Free Press* “If we don’t suppress the Detroit vote, we’re going to have a tough time in this election.” Blacks comprise 83 percent of Detroit’s population.

Wisconsin

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker tried to block the City of Milwaukee’s request for 258,000 additional ballots following a record-setting voter registration drive in the predominantly African-American central city. He backed down after protests from local officials.

Arizona

A Fox news crew disrupted a voter registration drive held at the University of Arizona by the Network of Feminist Student Activists, accusing students of engaging in felony voter fraud by registering ineligible new residents even though state law only requires voters to live in the state for 29 days before the election.

New Hampshire

An out-of-state student at the University of New Hampshire said he was threatened with criminal charges when he tried to register to vote in New Hampshire even though state law does not require voters to have lived in the state for a particular amount of time.

Washington, D.C.

Republican Party Chairman Ed Gillespie sent a letter to the group Rock the Vote requesting that it “cease and desist” from promoting its campaign warning young voters that the government may reinstate the draft. Gillespie threatened to take legal action and said the group’s non-profit status could be in jeopardy. [Democracy Now, 10/19/04]

oregon

Town and Country Divide

PORTLAND, OREGON— More than a dozen people have tried to register me to vote over the past month, approaching me on the street, in a coffee shop and even in the library. All of them were, officially or unofficially, supporting Kerry for President. Portland is an infamously left-leaning locale — when Bush the elder used to come to town, he would be met by so many protesters that the White House dubbed the city “Little Beirut” — but the rest of Oregon bears a closer resemblance to Idaho. Al Gore won the state by fewer than 7,000 votes in 2000 and the Democrats know that Kerry will only win if they get out the Portland vote.

But the real story here is local. The Oregon ballot includes measures to make it legal for medical marijuana patients to buy bud (currently they can legally possess and grow it) and to protect the Tillamook and Clatsop forests from logging. The most controversial one is Measure 36, an anti-gay marriage amendment. (Similar measures are on the ballot in 11 states this fall.)

The state’s voters have defeated three anti-gay ballot measures since 1992, but queer activists are worried about this one. The polls have been stuck in a statistical tie for months, and organizers with the Bus Project say that they need 5,000 more votes to defeat Measure 36. However, an ongoing canvassing campaign is underway and Rebekah Kassell of No On 36 says workers at their six field offices are having “really good responses at the door and on the phone.”

Over 3,000 same-sex marriages are already on the books in Multnomah County (the Portland area) and, if Measure 36 is defeated, the Oregon Supreme Court is expected to rule in favor of either civil unions or same-sex marriage by the end of the year. If the amendment passes, activists will challenge it in court as violating the state’s bill of rights.

—Matt Wasserman

new hampshire

Pumpkins & Presidents

LONDONDERRY, NH—New Hampshireites from all walks of life flock to orchards like Mack’s Apples at the peak of autumn to pick their own apples and pumpkins. As for presidential candidates, all but a few have made their choice.

“We really need some help with health care. We’ve had our worst year ever,” said Diana Domings of Hudson, a Kerry supporter whose husband was laid off earlier this year from his job as a car-wash manager. “Bush is more into rich people than people like us.”

“Kerry has no core,” said Neil Tremblay, a former Air Force military intelligence officer from Merrimack who has donated \$100 to the Bush-Cheney campaign. “He agrees with everybody and disagrees with everybody. How can someone like that lead?”

Of the 30 states that Bush won in 2000, only Florida was decided by a smaller margin than New Hampshire, which went for Bush by a mere 7,000 votes. The state’s four electoral votes are up for grabs again this year.

Terrorism, the Iraq war, healthcare, jobs and abortion rights were the issues mentioned most frequently by New Hampshireites.

Both Jennifer and Tim Bliss of Merrimack say they will vote for Kerry to protect abortion rights. “I think it’s amazing that you wouldn’t be able to decide what to do with your body,” Jennifer says.

Both campaigns are desperately wooing the few voters who remain undecided, like Jim Desjardin, a telecom engineer from Windham.

Paula, a mother of two small children from Pelham, is concerned about terrorist attacks and the skyrocketing costs of health insurance. She says she won’t vote for Bush, but isn’t sure whether she will support Kerry. “Do I not vote or do I vote for Kerry?” she asked herself. “He just doesn’t excite me.”

—John Tarleton

iraq

How to Lose a War

In the run-up to the U.S. presidential election, there's one group of potential voters who are completely indifferent: Iraqis living under U.S. occupation.

"Bush? Kerry? It really makes no difference," Hamid Majeed, a factory manager in Baghdad, told *Reuters*. "American policies in the Middle East and Iraq will not change... They just want to control Iraq and keep it unstable because that will be an excuse to stay here."

Abbas Muhammad added, "I like Kerry but I really don't think much will change here even if Iraqis could vote in America."

Like some U.S. voters, one Iraqi didn't want to waste his vote on either a Democrat or Republican. Alla al-Turfi said, "Saddam is my choice. He is the only person I want to vote for."

This is hardly an isolated opinion. In a widely circulated email, *Wall Street Journal* Reporter Farnaz Fassihi noted, "if Saddam Hussein were allowed to run for elections he would get the majority of the vote."

As for elections, Fassihi wrote, "The Iraqi government is talking about having elections in three months while half of the country remains a 'no go zone'... In the other half, the disenfranchised population is too terrified to show up at polling stations."

Seemingly frustrated by the deteriorating situation in Iraq, the Bush administration is ratcheting up the violence. The weapons-buyback program held in the Sadr City section of Baghdad after weeks of bombing by U.S. planes.

By many accounts, the program has been a failure. One U.S. Army officer told the *Washington Post*, "I would say it certainly isn't a success." Many of the weapons that have been handed in have been described as ancient or broken. Ironically, the *Financial Times* reported, the "handover scheme has inadvertently increased the flow of arms into the suburb from traders throughout Iraq, hoping to make a profit."

In any case, a commander in the Moqtada Sadr's Mahdi Army told the AP, "We have taken our precautions. Our plan is to maintain our strength."

Nonetheless, many residents of Sadr City expressed relief over the lull in the fighting. U.S. forces began bombing Sadr City after evicting Mahdi Army forces from Najaf in August. It's not known how many people were killed in Sadr City, but the U.S. assault of Najaf offers a clue.

According to the *New York Times*, the fighting left "a ring of devastation" around the Imam Ali Shrine. The *Times* added that there have been "9,000 claims involving death or injury." As deaths in warfare amount to at least 20 percent of the casualty rate, this equals 1,800 killed in Najaf.

As for the toll among all Iraqis, the Health Ministry stopped releasing numbers in early October. The *New York Times* tallied 208 dead Iraqis from Oct. 11 to 17, but the real number is almost certainly higher as the count relied on published reports.

The Pentagon has proved that it can bomb Iraqis into submission, at least temporarily. But only reconstruction and jobs will sap support for the resistance. In Najaf, American officials are touting the "tens of millions of dollars" in reconstruction projects they have initiated, but a high-level Iraqi official in Najaf countered that "not much rebuilding or reconstruction has been done."

As for Iraqi security forces, they continue to desert. According to *USA Today*, even before the U.S. reconquest of Samarra kicked off Oct. 1, "at least 300 Iraqi soldiers abandoned their 750-man unit." Belying optimistic American officials, a U.K.-based think tank estimated that it would take five years for Iraqi security forces to be effective. Adding to the skepticism, a U.S. general told *Reuters* that Baghdad alone needed 10,000 more police, calling into question that elections could be held in three months.



HAITI'S SILENT AGONY

By BILL WEINBERG

Hurricane Jeanne was still just a "tropical storm" when it tore through Haiti Sep. 20, leaving at least 1,500 dead, nearly 1,000 missing and 200,000 homeless, especially in the northwest port city of Gonaives. But now the failure of Haiti's new U.S.-backed government to disarm the paramilitary gangs that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide last March is deepening the impoverished nation's agony. Armed gangs have held up relief convoys, hindering the delivery of food and water to the survivors of Jeanne.

"There's a big problem with gangs," John Harrison, security chief of the U.N. stabilization mission in Haiti, told the Associated Press Sept. 30, days after men armed with guns and machetes held up a government aid convoy. "I think things could get worse," he said.

Planeloads of relief aid have arrived from around the world, but getting it to the people who need it has become a challenge. Aid workers say they are racing the clock to get fresh water to stricken communities before cholera breaks out. The United Nations has sent 150 more troops to Gonaives since the storm, reinforcing some 600 peacekeepers already in the city. An altercation was reported between a group of about 20 armed rebels and UN peacekeepers guarding the main food aid warehouse in Gonaives.

Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, a spokesman for the U.N. mission, told AP that there are so many armed groups operating in Haiti that it is impossible to say which are responsible for the raids of relief supplies in Gonaives. "The city is just filled with gangs," he said. Food riots by the desperate population have also broken out.

Electricity and landline phones are out of operation in Gonaives, and the city's hospital is flooded. Roads are nearly impassable with mud, and unclaimed corpses have been hurriedly dumped into mass graves by the truckload to prevent disease. An emergency Oxfam airlift from England brought in tents and plastic sheeting for the many thousands left homeless.

Croplands were also devastated by the storm, especially in the Northwest region, with corn fields, rice paddies and citrus orchards flattened — exacerbating the damage to Haitian agriculture from floods in May that killed over 3,000 along the Dominican border. The flooded region produced up to 40 percent of the bananas, beans and sweet potatoes consumed in Haiti. "In the 1970s, Haiti used to be able to produce about 70% of the

food; now it's about 40 and this latest tragedy could affect that even more," said Guy Gavreau, Haiti director of the UN's World Food Program (WFP).

The WFP says \$5.9 million is now desperately needed to feed 100,000 Haitians for the next five months. Eighty per cent of Haiti's population lives under the minimum poverty threshold of \$150 dollars a month, according

to the WFP.

"We can't even begin to replant because corpses are still clogging our canals," Delva Delivra, a 54-year-old peasant told AP, pointing to an unclaimed corpse in a muddy canal next to a field of crushed corn stocks. "It's the farmers who always suffer."

Reprinted from www.3report.com

interview

'We are willing to die'

FROM BLACKCOMMENTATOR.ORG

Backed by United Nations so-called peacekeepers, the U.S.-installed Haitian regime continues its siege of poor neighborhoods in the capital, Port au Prince, in an attempt to crush ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas party. The following is the result of a clandestine interview with a woman called Nancy, conducted in the slum of Bel Air.

First you should realize that they have been trying to starve the poor in Haiti since President Aristide was kidnapped on Feb. 29. Do you know how much rice and beans cost now in the market? Families are starving while a few families that import goods are getting rich off the pennies we have to spend on food. They have killed us since then and driven us into hiding. Have you ever tried to feed your family while you are running from the police and you have no job? They have arrested our leaders or driven them into exile.

...And now the de facto Prime Minister [Gerard Latortue] has said he is going to sign a contract with the former military to kill us one by one. In a secret meeting he had with the Minister of justice, a friend inside heard Latortue estimate that it would be necessary to kill 25,000 people in the capital, in the capital alone to stop the calls for the return of President Aristide. September 30th was the beginning of this initiative where Latortue unleashed his forces... It was they who began firing on unarmed demonstrators while the Brazilians and the United Nations stood by to let them kill us.

[T]hey had extra squads of former military work hand-in-hand with these militarized forces of the police to enter Bel Air, Cite Soleil, La Saline, Grand Ravine, Delmas 2, Martissant and many other poor neighbor-

hoods to kill a lot of people. On September 30th many people were killed, especially in Bel Air. The former military had already set up operations in Bel Air and Cite Soleil without our knowledge before the demonstration had started. We did not know that they had quietly entered certain houses very early in the morning and held the occupants at gunpoint waiting for the right moment to strike. After the killing started they broke into many more houses shooting and beating people who had stayed at home... This is how the violence of September 30th began and it became a question of defending our neighborhoods and our community from the violence of Latortue's police and the former military.

In the days that followed we would not allow them to enter our communities and continue the killing... So they set up on the outskirts of our neighborhoods and began to arrest everybody in sight. Outside of Bel Air we have seen them force three year-olds and four year-olds to the ground. There are many people here who do not know where they have taken their family members after they arrest them. All of this because Latortue and Bush were afraid of the numbers of people they knew we would mobilize to demand Aristide's return on September 30th...

...We are not counted as human beings in Haitian society because we are poor and uneducated even though we are the majority of the population. With President Aristide this was not the case and for this reason we are determined there will never be peace in Haiti until he returns. Our brothers, our sisters, our fathers, our sons and our cousins are all willing to die before we will accept this misery caused by a government that was put into power by foreigners and that does not accept us as human beings.

For the full interview, go to blackcommentator.org

Olive Groves Are Burning

BY ATEF SAAD

BEIT FOURIK, WEST BANK—The olive harvest is usually a happy occasion for farmers, but Fares Hanani looks ahead to this season with trepidation. At the age of 70, he has seen plenty of harvests come and go on the mountainous terrain near Beit Fourik and his brothers inherited from their father and grandfather, but the last couple of years have been especially difficult.

Two years ago, the Israeli government financed the construction of "security zones" around Nablus-area settlements, some as wide as 400 meters and all with electrified fences and security cameras.

For the Hananis the measure has been disastrous. Their land, close to the Itimar settlement, is now almost completely off limits to the family, and although they own 10,000 olive trees that produce up to 30,000 liters of olive oil annually, their income from the harvest is now zero.

The extended family of 35 has in the past tried to sneak onto the land to pick olives, but doing so can be deadly. Settler attacks on the farmers seem to intensify around the olive harvest. On Oct. 11, armed settlers opened fire on a group of farmers picking olives from their groves in the village of Asirah Al Junubiyeh, wounding Hani Abdel Raouf in the neck. In October of last year, settlers killed farmer Adnan Idrees and a youth in separate incidents. During the harvest two years ago, settlers killed three farmers.

And it is not just direct attacks on the person. On Sept. 29, settlers set fire to 400 dunams of land planted with olive trees south of the town (a dunam is a quarter-acre). The fire damaged hundreds of trees, according to farmer Abu Saleh, who says he himself lost 318 trees. Last year, settlers cut down 6,000 olive trees on lands south of Nablus.

Along the security zones, farmers are not allowed to graze livestock, and they complain that settlers steal their olives and press them in an olive press they have set up in the Itimar settlement. An official in the Palestinian agricultural ministry estimated that settlers had picked olives from an area of more than 300 dunams in Yanoun and Deir Al Harab last season.

With all this it is not surprising that the Hanani family has almost stopped trying to get to their land. "I never imagined in my worst nightmares the day would come when Abu Fursan [Fares] would have to buy olive oil," said Shahleh, Fares Hanani's sister. "But we will not surrender. We, along with the



(AP PHOTO/KEVIN FRAYER)

During the past four years, Israeli demolition of homes has left 24,547 Gazans homeless.

other villagers, are determined to pick our olives this year no matter the consequences."

Beit Fourik lies about seven kilometers east of Nablus and its 10,000 residents live primarily off agriculture and livestock. But of the 36,350 dunams of cultivated land, mostly planted with olive trees, 11,000 dunams are now off-limits to the owners.

"People are scared because of the repeated attacks and provocations from the settlers that what happened in the past will happen this season," Beit Fourik mayor Atef Hanani told the *Palestine Report*.

According to the ministry of agriculture, over the past three years the Israeli army has uprooted 338,251 trees, resulting in \$16 million worth of losses to the Palestinian agricultural sector.

Mayor Hanani sees more trouble ahead. "The army has allowed Beit Fourik farmers three days to pick their crops next to the settlement fences and the security zone," Hanani said. "But this is not enough time, we need at least 10 days."

The Israeli army has provided timetables to more than 30 villages in "friction zones" near major area settlements. In most cases, hours for harvesting have been drastically cut and in some cases farmers have only one day to

bring in the entire crop.

The Sharrarbeh area is one of the friction zones. It is located south of Beit Fourik and falls between two settler bypass roads. Mayor Hanani, whose family's olive grove is in this area, said the army had informed them that "whoever does go in will be shot at." More than 120 farmers have groves in such prohibited areas, according to the mayor.

But there is still some good news. For example, because of the closures during the four years of the Intifada, hundreds of farmers have rehabilitated lands east of Beit Fourik and restored it for agricultural use. The farmers have planted the land with olive trees in order to at least partially compensate for the loss of their land and groves near the settlements.

"This season will be good in the plains," the mayor predicted. "Of course, the quality is lower than in the hilly area because of the lack of rainfall."

Hanani has another reason to rejoice. A French non-governmental organization has promised to buy large amounts of Beit Fourik's olive oil to market in France. The NGO is also training farmers on the best methods of picking, storing and pressing olives.

Excerpted from www.palestinerreport.org

the world IN BRIEF

STUDENT STRIKE IN PUERTO RICO

On Oct. 7th, students at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan closed the gates of the Rio Piedras Campus as part of a 24-hour strike to demand the reinstatement of suspended mathematics professor Héctor Rosario.

The professor was suspended for six months without pay for yelling "assassin" to a military official and cooperating with a student camp against the ROTC at the western Mayaguez campus. Rosario started a hunger strike in protest.

The protest was precipitated by the university president's refusal to clarify the professor's situation. As a result of the actions taken by students and the professor, the administration offered Rosario a reduction of the suspension to four months and immediate restitution of his salary. Rosario refused and the case is still on appeal.

70,000 PROTEST WAR IN LONDON DURING EURO SOCIAL FORUM

While tens of thousands gathered in London's Trafalgar Square to protest British participation in the U.S. led occupation of Iraq, tensions inside the European Social Forum (ESF) broke into the open. Organized largely by members of the Socialist Workers Party, the UK's largest socialist organization, in cooperation with London Mayor "Red" Ken Livingstone, a dissident member of the ruling Labour Party, the ESF has raised the hackles of anarchists and autonomous activists who complained of exclusion from the planning process. After organizing a counter-ESF nearby, a group of 200 anarchists stormed the stage of the forum Oct. 16, blocking Livingstone's planned speech. Banners were unfurled reading "Ken's Party, War Party," in reference to the Labour Party's support of the Iraq war.

VENEZUELA: FACTORY OCCUPIED, ELECTION RELIABILITY DISPUTED

Hundreds of workers occupied the Venepal paper mill in Morón, Venezuela on Sept. 7 demanding nationalization and workers' management. Venepal is one of the largest paper producers in South America. Before closing up shop and leaving hundreds of workers unpaid, the owners were active in the anti-Chavez opposition, despite overwhelming support for the former paratrooper and populist leader in the local municipality.

Caracas Mayor Alfredo Peña, the highest elected official opposed to Chavez, says he is withdrawing his candidacy for re-election amid concerns of fraud in the coming regional elections. Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel dismisses the allegations, instead noting the disunity of the Venezuelan right after Chavez' crushing victory in a recent national referendum on his "Bolivarian revolution."

OPPOSING "SEXUAL RIGHTS," U.S. DROPS POPULATION AGREEMENT

On Oct. 13, at the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt, over 250 world leaders signed a statement supporting a renewed U.N. population agenda. Signatories to the statement say they hope to encourage a renewed action plan to address the deepening HIV/AIDS pandemic, persisting maternal mortality, and difficulty of access to family planning services, particularly in poorer nations. Among those signing the statement were former U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, along with other presidents, prime ministers, and Nobel laureates. Missing was the Bush administration, which said it withheld support because of the statement's commitment to "sexual rights" and reproductive rights, which it claimed exceeded the original agreement not to invoke a concept whose definition is not agreed upon by the international community.

nyc.indymedia.org

Humanitarian Crisis Deepens

BY DONALD PANETH

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.—Nine-year-old Ghadeer Jaber Mokheimer was fatally wounded Oct. 13 when she was hit by gunfire from an Israeli military position in the Gaza Strip. The fifth-grade pupil was sitting at her desk in school at Khan Younis refugee camp. She died the next day.

She was the second child in recent weeks to die after being shot while attending school. Ten-year-old Raghda Adnan Al-Assar died on Sept. 22, two weeks after a bullet struck him in the head.

"The pace of child deaths has been accelerating terribly," said Peter Hansen, Commissioner-General of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

From January to September 2004, 453 Palestinians were killed in Gaza. Thirty-two Israelis were killed in Gaza and four by Qassam rocket attacks launched from Gaza into the neighboring Israeli town of Sderot.

The humanitarian situation among the 1.4 million Palestinians in Gaza has deteriorated sharply since the beginning of 2004, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported Oct. 1. Based on 2003 conditions, the poverty rate in Gaza is expected to increase from 47 percent to 56 percent by 2006.

Malnutrition rates have increased — chronic malnutrition for children under five is 12.7 percent — and are expected to rise. A marked

increase in psychological disorders among Palestinian children has also been recorded.

During the past four years, Israeli demolition of homes has left 24,547 Gazans homeless. In 2004, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) demolished on average 120 residential buildings each month. In September 2004 alone, 133 homes were demolished, leaving 807 people homeless.

IDF leveling of land to provide a clear field of fire has contributed to food insecurity. For example, more than 50 percent of Beit Hanoun's agricultural land, mainly growing citrus fruits and olives, has been destroyed in the past four years.

Meanwhile, no fishing has been permitted from approximately 40 percent of the Gaza coast since October 2003. In the remaining coastal areas, fishermen are limited to six nautical miles off the coast. Under the Oslo Accords, Palestinians were permitted to fish up to 20 nautical miles off the coast.

All movement across Gaza's borders is controlled. An Israeli security fence surrounds Gaza and sea access to the west is prohibited. Palestinian movement in and out of Gaza is limited to two crossing points: Erez terminal for laborers with permits to work in Israel, and Rafah terminal in the south into Egypt.

Economic options for Palestinians are disappearing, and coping mechanisms are being exhausted, OCHA said.

REVIEWS

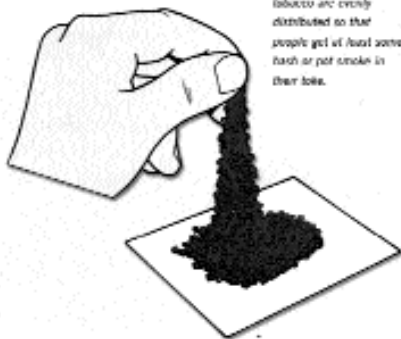
CULTURE, POLITICS AND CRITICISM

BUILDING A SPLIFF OR EUROPEAN JOINT

While "spliff" is often used as a generic term for a reefer, its specific meaning is a larger, slightly conical joint. Originally Jamaican, it's now spread worldwide. In Britain and continental Europe, the classic hashish-and-tobacco "European joint" has evolved, both through basic similarity and the influence of reggae culture, to resemble the Jamaican spliff. Europeans commonly roll joints with a small cardboard tube inserted at one end, to make it easier to hold.

PREPARING THE HERB

Like a joint, only it's bigger, so it's more forgiving of larger pieces of bud. Hashish has to be crumbled into very small pieces. As hash is harder to burn than marijuana, it needs to be much finer than a regular pot joint. Powdery hashers are easy to crumble; the denser black hashies like Afghan and Nepalese are more difficult. They need to be broken into pinhead-sized pieces. It helps to heat the hash slowly with a match or lighter.



It's important that the cannabis and tobacco are evenly distributed so that people get at least some hash or pot smoke in their toke.

ROLLING



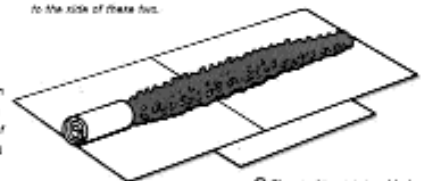
With regular-size papers such as Zig-Zag or Rite, this can be effected together by tucking the corners of one and sticking it on the base of the other, then a third paper is attached perpendicular to the side of these two.



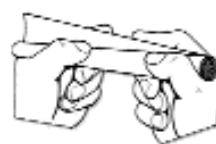
With extra-long rolling papers, there's no need to do this—you just roll one or two. Another method is to put two papers together at an angle of 135° on the gum side, but this can be tricky to roll.



A small holder (known in Britain as a roach) is made by rolling up a strip of thin cardboard (the cover of a book of papers works well), about 2 1/2 inch wide.



The smoking mix is added, and once at the end away from the roach. Some people find it easier to roll with the roach already in; others prefer to insert it after it's rolled.



The main difficulty in rolling it up is getting the conical shape right. Rolling it at a slightly diagonal angle to follow the shape of the pot, not straight up, can help. (One British company sells promote paper cones; all you have to do is stop the herb in.)



A little extra space is left at the tail end. After rolling, the herb is gently tapped down with a pen.



The extra paper is twisted into a "tail." This makes it easier to light and keeps the weed inside.

KEEPING IT REAL WITH FOLK'S ORIGINAL G

RAMBLIN' MAN:
THE LIFE & TIME
OF WOODY GUTHRIE

by Ed Cray
W.W. Norton & Co., 2004

Turning off the paved road outside of Desert Center, California, this past March, our old car labored down a winding dirt trail miles long. As the car's shocks rocked, we came to a stop and spilled into a dry creek bed nestled between two mountains. From our vantage point we could see the sprawling desert valley dotted with cactus and brush. Sweep into the barren Palen Mountains to the north and your voice will echo "like rain on a conga drum."

Folk musician Woody Guthrie stole into this state near here for the first time on a freight train in March 1937, searching for a job and singing songs about Okies, Arkies and other Dust Bowl refugees looking for a better life.

Taking advantage of the recently expanded Guthrie archives, Ed Cray's *Ramblin' Man* is an extensive and insightful biography of

the folk singer. Together with Joe Klein's *Woody Guthrie: A Life*, the first major biography of the balladeer, *Ramblin' Man* demystifies a man who had become a legend before he died in 1967.

In his freight-hopping and hard-traveling autobiography, *Bound For Glory*, Guthrie provided home-spun tales of his childhood in Okemah, Oklahoma. *Ramblin' Man* calls Guthrie's upbringing "middle class" because his father had dabbled in real estate. But Guthrie's family suffered like most Americans through the Great Depression that defined his music and never lived the suburban fantasia of the post-war years.

Guthrie wrote thousands of songs, many lost to history or without music. He wrote songs like "1913 Massacre" and "Union Maid" about worker struggles. Others like "This Land Is Your Land" and "Pretty Boy Floyd" have become folk classics. Obscure tunes like "Jarama Valley" honor Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War, and "Hanukkah Dance" is Guthrie's contribution to the Jewish faith (his second wife was Jewish). Guthrie's career was intertwined with the radical politics of the time. Union hall performances were his regular gig.

While sympathetic to Guthrie's red leanings, *Ramblin' Man* pulls no punches about Guthrie's womanizing, alcoholism and abuse of

loved ones as he slid into the abyss of Huntington's disease.

Guthrie, never one for long-winded party meetings, nevertheless followed the Communist Party line of non-intervention in World War II until the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor mobilized the American left into the war effort. Guthrie served as a merchant marine.

Cray also delves into Guthrie's crowning by New York leftist circles as the authentic working class hero. For Cray and the people he quotes who knew Guthrie, the singer's "hyper-literacy [was] carefully hidden in an ill-kempt, often unwashed body" that was part of Guthrie's hobo image. Apparently Guthrie, who struggled to put food on the table for most of his life, didn't labor enough for the likes of these supporters.

Guthrie was folk music before there was folk music. Before Greenwich Village and Berkeley, Woody Guthrie sang songs from the mouths of farmers, small-town folks and common laborers. Like many blues singers, such as Mississippi John Hurt, who found new life in the folk revival of the 1960s, Guthrie's songs were played by any Village musician worth his guitar. Guthrie missed out on performing in the revival as his health declined.

Rolling out of the Texas pan-

handle, where Guthrie lived for a time in Pampa, our modern-day jalopy crossed into Oklahoma on the way to Guthrie's hometown. One gets the sense that time has passed Okemah by. The town hosts a folk festival in his honor every July and a second-hand store sells Guthrie memorabilia. An elderly man at the store can point you in the direction of a plot of land where Guthrie's house stood before burning down years back, and to a Guthrie mural on an old building on the main street.

—Bennett Baumer

THE STRAIGHT DOPE

THE CANNIBIS
COMPANION
by Steven Wishnia
Running Press, 2004

If you haven't been pinched for herbal indiscretions of late, you could be forgiven for thinking weed became legal long ago. With grandmothers smoking herb to ease glaucoma and a president with a predilection for the harder stuff (cocaine as a youth, Jesus in recent years), marijuana has never been more pervasive, less taboo or higher quality. So while teenagers across Brooklyn are still tucking bags

beneath their tender scrotums, *Independent* contributor Steven Wishnia's *The Cannabis Companion* offers "the ultimate guide to connoisseurship" in a tasteful, and tasty coffee-table book artfully designed to amuse your stoned-out brethren while they're glued to the couch.

And, it's educational too. Learn how racial paranoia fed into early prohibition efforts. Marvel bud porn so explicit the pages stick together. Ponder the difference between indica and sativa. Geek out over the technology of hydroponics. Enrich yourself with regional rolling techniques such as blunts and the exotic "European" spliff—mixed with tobacco to make it truly rebellious. And weep, weep I tell you, at the paltry skinny on the "New York joint," famous around the country for being so slim you can "pick your teeth."

Which reminds me, something needs to be done about the crazy price of the smokables in this city. Reading chapters on how they roll "Texas-sized" down south, I can't remember the last time I even saw a dime-bag. An eighth of hydro reportedly runs \$70-\$80. Community merchants blame the "war on terror," with cops randomly searching at bridges and tunnels for Osama Bin Smokin, but I smell profiteering. If you can't get lifted on a working man's wage, then the terrorists are winning. And we wouldn't want that. —Jared Burton

There are 1,000 reasons to vote for David McReynolds

GREEN PARTY
CANDIDATE FOR
U.S. SENATE

WHAT DAVID STANDS FOR:

- > An end to the illegal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and drastic cuts in the bloated military budget
- > Repeal of the PATRIOT ACT
- > End the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories
- > End all military aid to Israel and other countries in the Middle East
- > Single-payer universal healthcare
- > End the death penalty
- > Legalize same-sex marriage
- > Fight global warming with renewable energy and conservation and emissions control.



We Don't Need More



GREEN PARTY
Grassroots Democracy
Ecological Wisdom
Non-violence
Social and Economic Justice

CONTACT INFORMATION:
(718) 369-2998
WWW.MCREYNOLDSFORSENATE.ORG
INFO@MCREYNOLDSFORSENATE.ORG





COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

THE INDEPENDENT

has open meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 34 E. 29th St., 2nd floor.

FRIDAY OCT 22

NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY
Since 9/11, at least 101 people have been identified in New York and New Jersey as having been killed by law enforcement, and since that day racial profiling has expanded exponentially beyond the Black and Latino communities to target Arabs, Muslims and South Asians. A call is put out for participants to wear black. Union Square rally at 4:00 p.m., followed by a march to Times Square at 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY OCT 23

All day • Registration: \$10 (for New Yorkers) or \$5 (non-New Yorkers)
BUILDING A LEFT ALTERNATIVE TO A WORLD OF WAR AND POVERTY
East Coast Socialist Conference
NAC Building, CUNY, 138th Street and Convent Avenue.
nesocialistconference.net

2 p.m. • Free
BLUE DRESS WALK
Slip on a blue dress. Meet at 59th St. & 5th Ave.
bluedresswalk.com

2-8:30 p.m. • \$10
BAZAAR AND FILM SHOWINGS TO SUPPORT "MADE IN PALESTINE" ART EXHIBITION
Bazaar featuring clothing, books, housewares, Palestinian goods, home decor, music and much more! All proceeds go directly to support the "Made in Palestine" art exhibition!
Films: 3 p.m. - *Children of Shatila* (1998, Dir. Mai Masri, 50 min.); 4:45 p.m. - *Divine Intervention* (2002, Dir. Elia Suleiman, 92 min.); 7 p.m. - *Rana's Wedding* (2002, Dir.

Hany Abu Assad, 90 min.).
Alwan for the Arts, 16 Beaver St.
madeinpalestine@aljisser.org

TUESDAY OCT 26

6 p.m. • Free
"PEACE UNDER FIRE: ISRAEL, PALESTINE, AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT"
Authors, members of the ISM and other human rights activists discuss the horror of life under occupation, the brave actions of the ISM, and the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
Coliseum Books, 11 W. 42nd St.
212-803-5892

7 p.m. • Free

FINAL COUNT: HIP HOP, PRISON AND THE NEW DEMOCRACY
CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave.
212-817-8215

7 p.m. • \$5 suggested donation
FREE "FREE!"
Showing of "Green with a Vengeance" to benefit Jeff "Free" Luers' legal appeal fund.
Object Image Gallery, 91 5th Ave. (btw. Prospect Pl. and Park Pl.), Bklyn
freefreeenow.org

10 p.m.-12 am • Free
HUNGRY MARCH BAND VS. RUDE MECHANICALS ORCHESTRA
Galapagos, 70 North 6th St. (btw. Wythe and Kent), Bklyn

8 p.m. • \$5
INDIE ROCK THE VOTE
Lick Bush Ltd., Music For America, Bands Against Bush and IndyVoter present...The Everyothers, The Tallboys, The Weekenders, Pretty Flowers, Starchild, UKUK, Hearts on Fire.
SIBERIA, 356 W. 40th St.
718-670-3707
mcprotestparty@yahoo.com

WEDNESDAY OCT 27

2:30 p.m. • Free
FILM: "SO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT" AND "WAG THE DOG"
Part of the "So You Want to Be President" film series.
Donnell Library, 20 W. 53rd St.
212-621-0618

6 p.m. • Free
DAVE AND CHRISTOPHER EGGERS, AUTHORS OF "GIRAFFES? GIRAFFES! AND YOUR DISGUSTING HEAD"
New series of reference books aimed at children but filled with ludicrous misinformation. Accompanied by discussion and booksigning.
Coliseum Books, 11 W. 42nd St.
212-803-5892

6:30 p.m. • \$10, call for reservation
THE BURNING SEASON: THE MURDER OF CHICO MENDES AND THE FIGHT FOR THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST
CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave.
212-817-8215

7 p.m. • \$10
IN THE SHADOW OF NO TOWERS: ART SPIEGELMAN IN DISCUSSION WITH CHIP KIDD
New School University, 66 W. 12th St.
212-265-2877

7 p.m. • Free
READING: "DANGEROUS FAMILIES: QUEER WRITING ON SURVIVING"
With Mattilda, Betsy Andrew and Kate Huh.
Bluestockings Books, 172 Allen St.
bluestockings.com

THURSDAY OCT 28

6 p.m.
IS THE PENTAGON HURTING OUR ECONOMY?
A World Policy Institute Forum.
New School University, 66 W. 12 St.
212-229-5808

6 p.m. • Free
POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS
Collection of political advertisements from 1956 to 1984, which seeks to provide an understanding of the evolution of images on television and the marketing of politics.
Donnell Library, 20 W. 53rd St.
212-621-0629

7-10 p.m. • Free
LADYFEST EAST KICKOFF
Visual Art Gallery Opening (following fashion & hip hop show \$10).
OFFICE OPS, 57 Thames St., Bklyn
ladyfesteast.org/schedule.html

FRIDAY OCT 29

6:30 p.m. to midnight • \$10 to \$40
RIPPLE EFFECT SALON BENEFIT FOR EAST AFRICA
Silent auction, food, panel on AIDS & poverty, films and performance salon hosted by Ugandan actor Patrick Ssenjovu. Performers include playwright Kia Corthron, actor Deanna Pacelli, Rwandan musician Nepo Soteri, South African actor Lucky Ngema and poet Bassey Ikpi.
Pace University Multi-purpose Room 1 Pace Plaza (enter on Spruce St.)

SATURDAY OCT 30

2ND ANNUAL REALLY REALLY FREE MARKET
Special Halloween Extravaganza
St. Marks Church

SUNDAY OCT 31

5:30 p.m. • Free
WEAR PINK
Join Code Pink, Rhythms of Resistance and others at the Halloween Parade to put out an anti-war, anti-Bush agenda message.
339 Lafayette St.

WEDNESDAY NOV 3

6-8 p.m. • Free
The Lost World of Italian American Radicalism: Politics, Labor and Culture
Tamiment Library, 10th Floor, Bobst Library, NYU
212-998-8248

don't miss an issue
SUBSCRIBE TODAY

"The Independent combines the spirit of direct action with a searing critique of corporate power."
- Naomi Klein

☐ Bill me ☐ Check enclosed

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

E-Mail

Phone

Subscription rate: \$27/year (23 issues). Angel rate: \$100/year. Make checks payable to the NYC IWC Print Team and send to: 34 East 29th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10016. Or for even faster service email your address to indysubs@yahoo.com and we will begin your subscription right away!

